

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report

Case Number

0500-0614

Case Title:

Village of Crestwood, IL

Reporting Office:

Chicago, IL, Area Office

Subject of Report:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) IEPA, Division Manager, Division of Public
Water Supplies

Activity Date:

July 19, 2012

Reporting Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Special Agent

24-JUL-2012, Signed by: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Approving Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Special Agent in Charge

25-JUL-2012, Approved by: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) #e

SYNOPSIS

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said that in the case of Crestwood if IEPA had known about the use of the contaminated well specialized treatment would have been required and Crestwood would have needed to employ a Class B operator. He said Crestwood should have installed a packed tower with carbon to remove the organic contaminants in the well used to supplement City of Chicago water purchased by Crestwood. Certified operator records are maintained at IEPA's Springfield office.

DETAILS

On July 18, 2012, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7) was interviewed. Present for the interview was this reporting agent (RA), Special Agent Will Oros, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Assistant United States Attorneys Erika Csicsila and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). This interview was conducted at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago, IL.

In summary and not verbatim, unless otherwise noted, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) provided the following information:

As of this interview (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is the Division Manager, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Division of Public Water Supply. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Geology from Bradley University. He began working at IEPA in the fall of 1985 in the Division of Water Supply as a Career Trainee. After approximately eight (8) years he transferred to IEPA's Springfield, Illinois, office as a Supervisor in IEPA's Field Operations Section. He later became the Manager of the Field Operations Section before being promoted to his current position in 2011.

As Division Manager of the Public Water Supply Division, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) oversees the Ground Water, Compliance Assistance, Field Operations and Permit Sections. He described the function of each as follows: The Ground Water Section implements source water protection to include well and surface water sources; Compliance Assistance Section ensures the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) specified in the regulations are adhered to; Field Operations Section evaluates source water treatment performance through inspection and some sampling; Permitting Section evaluates construction at community water supplies and treatment facilities.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) described a public water supply as a system that produces and delivers drinking water to customers. A system is considered a public system if there are at least fifteen (15) connections

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and/or the system services, or is intended to service, twenty five (25) persons year round.

Regarding the use of source water wells with contaminants present like the well used by the Village of Crestwood, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said IEPA would have required sampling of the raw untreated or diluted source water. The well could potentially be used depending on the level of contaminants but that treatment would have definitely been required to make the source water meet safe drinking water standards before being allowed to enter the distribution system.

IEPA would have also required Crestwood to perform additional routine monitoring. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said because Crestwood purchases water from Alsip, which is water treated and supplied by the City of Chicago, Crestwood has very limited monitoring requirements. If IEPA was aware Crestwood was supplementing the already treated and tested City of Chicago water IEPA would have required that Crestwood test, at a minimum, quarterly and report results for volatile and semi-volatile chemicals.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said sampling and chemical analysis of drinking water and self monitoring results is a process of checks and balance. He explained sampling offers proof that drinking water sources are safe and the applied treatment is removing contaminates. Self monitoring is a process where drinking water producers document and report the results of the chemical analysis to their customers and IEPA. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said IEPA received Monthly Operating Reports (MOR) from 1,800 sources and only has 40 employees to oversee the drinking water program. He said it is critical that IEPA receive regular and accurate information from drinking water producers so IEPA is able to determine if the public is receiving safe drinking water and make regulatory decisions based on the results.

Drinking water producers must submit MORs to IEPA which includes a summary of operations data that occurs over each month to include chemical usage and flow data. If no water is produced from any or all sources used by the municipality, the municipality must still submit MORs reporting that the source was not used or with a "0" reported in the flow data section of the MOR. MORs are maintained at IEPA's regional offices. Older versions are preserved on microfilm in accordance with Illinois record retention regulations.

Drinking water producers are required to report monitoring results to their customers by sending out a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on an annual basis. The purpose of the CCR is to raise awareness and confidence of the community's drinking water. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said CCR's are required by Federal law and that it is the municipality's, who provides drinking water, responsibility to provide accurate CCRs. Each CCR must identify all sources of water from which the municipality draws water to include all wells and surface water sources. CCRs submitted to IEPA are kept on file and reviewed by the Drinking Water Compliance Assistance Section. If a municipality fails to submit CCRs IEPA issues a violation letter.

IEPA also oversees a certified operator program. Individuals who work with drinking water sources are required to maintain an operator's license. Depending on the individuals job duties and the complex nature of the water source and treatment needs there are different categories of licensing. The categories are A thru D. A is the highest level and is required for an individual who is responsible for surface water treatment; Level B allows for operation of specialized ground water

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treatment, Level C allows for chemical addition to a drinking water source, and D, being the lowest level, allowing for simple operation or maintenance of pumps and equipment. To become a certified operator training and testing is required. To maintain the certification, continuing education courses are required.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said that in the case of Crestwood if IEPA had known about the use of the contaminated well specialized treatment would have been required and Crestwood would have needed to employ a Class B operator. He said Crestwood should have installed a packed tower with carbon to remove the organic contaminants in the well used to supplement City of Chicago water purchased by Crestwood. Certified operator records are maintained at IEPA's Springfield office.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said IEPA's drinking water section Technical assistance group is available 24 hours 7 days a week, nights, weekend, and holidays. They offer technical and regulatory support to all municipalities.

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